

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-06

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PM-04 COME-00 DODE-00 /051 R

DRAFTED BY OES/OFA/MST:WERB:LJA

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L/OES DCOLSON

INR/DDR/RGE RHODGSON

OES/OFA/OA MDBUSBY

OES/OFA/MST HSANDERSEN

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R 101259Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY RABAT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCLR, TGEN, TPHY, SP, MO

SUBJECT: GLOMAR CHALLENGER PORT CALL AND PLANNED ITINERARY

REF: STATE 219051

1. R/V GLOMAR CHALLENGER ORIGINALLY PLANNED TO MAKE A
PORT CALL AT LAS PALMAS ON 7 SEPT BUT INSTEAD CALLED AT
MADEIRA (MADEIRA IS) ON 4 SEPT, BECAUSE SEVERAL DAYS
BEFORE THE PORT CALL AT LAS PALMAS IT WAS DISCOVERED THAT
THE SHIP'S AGENT HAD NOT PROCESSED A PORT CALL REQUEST
THROUGH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. AS EMBASSY IS AWARE,
SPANISH LAW REQUIRES THAT PORT CALL REQUESTS BE MADE 15
DAYS PRIOR TO THE SHIP'S ARRIVAL; THEREFORE, THERE WAS
INSUFFICIENT TIME REMAINING TO PROCESS AN OFFICIAL
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REQUEST. IN ADDITION, A BAD WEATHER SYSTEM WAS IN THE

VICINITY OF THE AZORES, AND THE SHIP WAS CLOSER TO MADEIRA THAN LAS PALMAS. THE CHALLENGER WILL DEPART MADEIRA ON 10 SEPT AND PROCEED TO THE MOROCCAN BASIN WHERE IT WILL CONDUCT LEG 50 OF THE INTERNATIONAL PHASE OF OCEAN DRILLING (IPOD). IPOD IS AN INTERNATIONAL GEOPHYSICAL RESEARCH PROJECT BEING CONDUCTED BY THE US, USSR, UK, FRANCE, JAPAN, AND WEST GERMANY.

2. FOR MADRID: ON A RELATED MATTER WHICH MAY AT SOME

TIME INVOLVE THE EMBASSY, THE DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ENERGY OF THE SPANISH MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY SENT A LETTER ON 7 JULY 1976 TO FRANCISCO JAVIER DE LIZARZA, WHO REPRESENTS THE CHALLENGER OIL AND GAS COMPANY IN MADRID. THE TEXT OF THE ENTIRE LETTER WILL BE POUCHED WITH OTHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION. IN THE LETTER, THE DIRECTOR INCORRECTLY LINKS THE GLOMAR CHALLENGER OPERATIONS TO THE OFFSHORE DRILLING ACTIVITIES OF THE CHALLENGER OIL AND GAS COMPANY, A SUBSIDIARY OF GLOBAL MARINE INCORPORATED. THE ONLY LINK IS THE FACT THAT SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF OCEANOGRAPHY CHARTERS THE SHIP FROM GLOBAL MARINE TO CONDUCT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH WHICH IS FUNDED BY THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION AND BY GRANTS FROM THE USSR, UK, JAPAN, FRANCE AND WEST GERMANY. THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH OF THE GLOMAR CHALLENGER IS IN SUPPORT OF IPOD. MR.LIZARZA IS PROVIDING THE DIRECTOR GENERAL WITH DOCUMENTATION ATTESTING TO THE PURELY SCIENTIFIC NATURE OF THE RESEARCH. THE DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS THIS A MATTER BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND CHALLENGER OIL AND GAS COMPANY (GLOBAL MARINE) AND THE EMBASSY IS BEING INFORMED OF THIS IN THE EVENT AN INQUIRY IS RECEIVED FROM THE GOS. COPIES OF MR.LIZARZA'S COMMUNICATION WILL BE FORWARDED WHEN RECEIVED BY DEPARTMENT.

3. FOR RABAT AS INFORMATION ONLY: AS STATED PARA 1, GLOMAR CHALLENGER WILL DEPART MADEIRA ON 10 SEPT TO BEGIN LEG 50. A CRUISE PROSPECTUS WAS FORWARDED TO THE EMBASSY ON 16 AUGUST 1976 WHICH FULLY DESCRIBES THE RESEARCH PLAN AND OBJECTIVES. SITE 50-3 IS 45 NAUTICAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MILES OFF THE MOROCCAN COAST WHICH FALLS WITHIN THE GOM 70 NM CLAIM REGARDING FISHERIES AND MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. SCRIPPS HAS INFORMED THE DEPT THAT THIS IS A THIRD PRIORITY SITE WHICH THEY PROBABLY WILL NOT REPEAT NOT CONDUCT. IF THEY DO THEY WILL NOTIFY US FIRST. THE US DOES NOT RECOGNIZE THE GOM CLAIM AND THEREFORE DID NOT REPEAT NOT REQUEST GOM PERMISSION FOR THE RESEARCH. FYI. THE US AND GOM

DEFINITIONS OF WHAT CONSTITUTES CONTINENTAL SHELF
MAY DIFFER. THE GOM MAY CONSIDER SITE 50-3 TO BE ON
THEIR CONTINENTAL SHELF, ALTHOUGH THE US POSITION IS
THAT IT IS NOT REPEAT NOT MOROCCAN CONTINENTAL SHELF.
END FYI. THE GLOMAR CHALLENGER IS FULLY AWARE OF THE
MOROCCAN CLAIM AND AS A PRIVATE VESSEL IS FREE TO MAKE
ITS OWN CHOICE ON CONDUCTING THE RESEARCH. DEPT WILL
NOTIFY EMBASSY ASAP IF SITE 50-3 IS TO BE CONDUCTED

BUT CONSIDERS POSSIBILITY HIGHLY REMOTE.

4. SCRIPPS IS IN POSSESSION OF A LETTER FROM A MR.
DEMNATI, AN OFFICIAL WITH THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE,
INDUSTRY AND MINES, IN RABAT. THE LETTER IS FRIENDLY
AND ACKNOWLEDGES THEIR INTEREST IN THE RESEARCH AND
INDICATES THEY ARE AWARE OF THE PLANS FOR LEG 50.
MORROCAN PARTICIPATION ON THE CRUISE WAS INVITED BUT
APPARENTLY DECLINED. KISSINGER

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